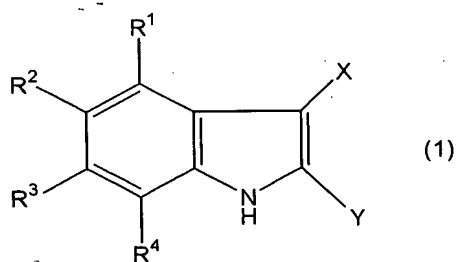


CLAIMS:

1. An indole derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 represents an alkoxy group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and other groups of the R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 represent hydrogen, an alkyl group containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, acetyl group, or hydroxyl group; and either one of X and Y represents $-(CH_2)_nOH$ wherein n is an integer of 0 to 30, and the other one of the X and Y represents hydrogen atom; or a salt thereof.

2. The indole derivative or its salt according to claim 1 wherein one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is an alkoxy group containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and other groups of the R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are hydrogen; and n is 10 to 20.

3. A drug containing the indole derivative or its salt of claim 1 or 2 as its effective component.

4. The drug according to claim 3 wherein the drug is a prophylactic or therapeutic drug for brain dysfunction or neuropathy.
5. An agent for promoting differentiation of a stem cell, comprising the indole derivative or its salt of claim 1 or 2 as its effective component.
6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the indole derivative or its salt of claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. A method for treating brain dysfunction or neuropathy wherein the indole derivative or its salt of claim 1 or 2 is administered.
8. Use of the indole derivative or its salt of claim 1 or 2 for producing a drug.